WRL News

ISSN: 0042-9791

Number 227 | The War Resisters League | November-December 1981

Decision Days at Diablo Canyon

By Steve Leeds

"How is the blockade going?" asked the middle-aged woman waiting on tables in a hotel restaurant. "Well, I want you to know I am with you, and for every one of you blockaders, there are thousands more who support you and are praying you will be successful." In recent years, no other issue has caught the attention of this mostly rural and conservative central California coastal community as the Diable Canyon Nuclear Power Plant has. After 15-years of hearings, direct action, and increasing local opposition, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the Pacific Gas and Electric Co. (PG&G) "resolved" security issues at the reactor. With that, the Abalone Alliances' long awaited blockade became a reality.

For over two weeks, thousands came to Diablo. They came from near and far, to express their determination to stop this particular plant, nuclear power and weapons, and make a strong statement at the beginning of the Reagan era.

Once the blockade alert went out, people from all over California (and the country), were asked to come to San Luis Obispo. Blockaders and support people began arriving at the alliances' Camping, Briefing, and Training Area (CBT).

The CBT, on 40 acres donated by a local supporter who endured considerable harassment, became a bustling village. A solar powered water heater and sound system was used. Affinity groups camped in areas designated by where they would be blockading. Nonviolence training, medical, communications, legal, support services, and cooking/eating areas rounded out the camp. Months of planning, hard work, and

Continued on page 8

Police line up to make arrests at the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant site.
Photo by Richard Milliken

Recruitment and the Draft

By Pat Sweeney

President Reagan is the best recruiting asset the military has, according to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower [sic] Lawrence Korb. He's right. In August, 1981, the Defense Department announced that higher pay and growing support for the armed forces had pushed the military to nearly 100% of its recruitment objectives for the nine months ending June 30, the period since Reagan's election. Reagan's budget cuts, his "my country right or wrong" brand of patriotism, and his portrayal of the military man as the model of virility have all served to channel people into the armed forces in search of jobs, useful skills and patriarchal approval. Reagan's proclamations to the contrary, a renewed draft is still likely, and is yet another factor in the current trend of rising enlistments, since young men have historically sought to avoid the draft or get a better deal by enlisting.

Reagan's political strategy has been augmented by a rigorous military recruitment promotion campaign. While most student loans and grants have been cut, Congress recently boosted Army ROTC scholarships from $6,500 to $12,000, and the Pentagon plans to open 56 new Army ROTC campus centers this fall. Congressional legislation has been proposed which would give the Selective Service the names of registrants for recruitment purposes. Further enticements to unemployed youth include increasing military pay, granting tax exemptions for members of the military, and resuming GI Bill educational benefits.

The Defense Department spends $3,000 to attract each new recruit. Half its budget goes to recruit, train, deploy and pension the country's three million active and retired military members. But with the economy in trouble and a 15% decline in 18-year-old males expected by the end of the century (a figure which, by the way, would change should abortion be outlawed), the military has no choice but to resort to the draft, its cheapest source of cannon fodder for U.S. military encounters on the horizon.

Continued on page 2

Draft

Continued from page 1

The Pentagon wants enough soldiers to be prepared for a number of different kinds of wars occurring simultaneously. "Peacetime" draftees would be brought in for small conventional "brushfire" wars where U.S. interests are threatened. Hundreds of thousands would be needed as combat casualty replacements should "limited" nuclear war erupt between NATO and Warsaw Pact countries in Europe.

In response to these war preparations the anti-militarist movement is growing by leaps and bounds, especially on the local level. Draft counselling centers are springing up all over the country, and counter-recruitment is coming to be seen as an integral part of anti-draft work.

One of the most pressing tasks ahead is reaching young people with information. Activists in Berkeley, California, decided the best strategy was to approach the local Board of Education with a proposal for a draft education course. With the help of concerned teachers, students and parents, the course was approved and will begin early next year. Veterans will talk to the students about the realities of war and military life in contrast to the lies recruiters tell. Of course, most areas aren't as liberal as Berkeley, so in order for peace activists to get a wedge in to compete with the free hand military recruiters have in the high schools they would generally have to conform to imposed standards of "objectivity."

Another exciting new counter-recruitment strategy focuses on the Armed Forces Entrance and Examination Stations (AFEES). There are 66 AFEES nationwide where potential recruits bottleneck as they enter and await processing for physical exams and later, if the physical is passed, return to take their military oaths. Anti-war activists, trained as pre-enlistment counselors, are planning a pilot program at AFEES in Northern California. Leaflets with questions to pose to recruiters, and military counselling referral numbers should the recruit have trouble in the military, will be distributed along with referral information for grants, loans, job training and placement programs, and low-cost health care and legal services outside the military. The new draft and counter-recruitment slide show, "Be All That You Can Be," will be shown at a nearby center.

Northeast Resistance Conference

What is it like to go to prison or into exile? How do we respond when the first non-registrant is prosecuted? How can we best spread the resistance message among draft age youth? What role can draft resistance play in the movement against the draft and US intervention? How can groups in the Northeast working on resistance communicate better? What are the political and legal options in court?

These are some of the questions addressed by over 200 people—including 21 public non-registrants—at the Northeast Resistance Conference held October 2-4 in New York City.

Discussions, exploring both the personal and political aspects of resistance, helped everyone—draft eligible or not—strengthen their resolve to oppose conscription, even at the risk of prison.

Particularly important was the interaction between past and present generations of resistance. Vietnam and World War II resisters and resistance organizers, like Grace Paley, John Bach, Dave Dellinger and Ralph DiGia shared the difficulties and high points of their resistance. We came away with a sense of the inner strengths and external support (often from surprising sources) that can be tapped.

Vietnam Veterans at the conference showed the possibilities for resistance within the military. As more and more young people are coerced into the military, whether by a legal or poverty draft—they will begin to question the broken promises, the racism and sexism and the military's purpose. They will need our support and encouragement as they begin to resist.

After lengthy strategy discussions the conference decided Northeast resitance groups would focus on four areas. 1) Locating and supporting non-registrants. Most non-registrants are not involved in anti-war organizations. As the Selective Service threatens non-registrants, we need to let them know what support is available. 2) Building political support for resistance. Many who are not prepared to aid and abet," or otherwise break the law, will visibly support others acts of conscience. 3) Continue circulating complicity statements. Finally, the conference urged everyone to prepare for protest actions in their local areas immediately after the first indictments are announced. Actions at the courthouses where the first trials take place should also be considered.

The conference also set up a continuations committee to strengthen the Northeast resistance network formed at the conference. Contact: Coalition Against Conscription, c/o NY MFS, 134 W. 4th St., New York, N.Y. 10012; (212) 673-1808.

—John Miller

Non-Registrants Meet In Berkeley

Fifty non-registrants, resistance organizers, and friends from all over the West Coast met September 26 and 27. Many came directly from the blockade of Diablo Canyon.

After lengthy introductions, we spent most of Saturday in workshops: on the international resistance movement, plans for demonstrations protesting prosecution, ways that people not expected to register can participate in the movement. Legal advice was readily available from members of the National Lawyers' Guild. Two members of the Gay Draft Counselling and Resistance Network were present to challenge and encourage our openness to the needs of gay resisters.

Saturday evening, Jeff Mertens and Russ and Joan Goddard spoke with clarity and optimism about their resistance of the Vietnam draft. Men's and women's sharing groups met separately and then together, and the quality of trust ran very deep.

Sunday morning several of us participated in a protest in San Francisco against Duarte's visit and the escalating US involvement in El Salvador. We then met for a drizzly picnic during which many non-registrants were interviewed for a film series on resistance being produced by the Selective Service Law Panel.

In the future we hope to do more thorough outreach, and give more effort to doing outreach in gay and Third World communities.

A regional newsletter and phone tree were established, and plans are underway for a resisters' conference focused on reaching a more diverse range of people. Our personal ties were strengthened, and the overall degree of openness and respect was gratifying.

—Paul Jolly

Draft Resisters Alert—
Prosecution Policy Unvailed

On July 19, 1981, the Selective Service System sent out the first batch of letters to suspected non-registrants asking them to register. Some resisters have not responded, others sent letters to Selective Service stating again their reasons for refusing to register. Selective Service has sent the names of those who did not respond or specifically refused to register, to the resister's local U.S. Attorney and the FBI. After an unspecified time the US Attorney will send a second warning letter which includes, along with a stamped reply envelope and registration card, an invitation to talk things over with the US Attorney [non-registrants should not visit the U.S. Attorney, unless or until they have received counselling]. Again, if there is non-response or a negative one, after another specified time, an indictment will be sought. Indictments cannot simply be dismissed by registration at a later date. Although, if you register there are exceptions. If the Justice Department determines that there have been extenuating circumstances or if you complete an informal probation period the indictment will be dropped.

Civil Disobedience at WIPP in New Mexico

By Dorie Bunting

Protesters began to gather at Florencia, New Mexico, a small town south of Carlsbad, on Friday evening, September 4. The occasion was a long-planned civil disobedience action at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP), a projected national nuclear waste repository on which work began in June. This action, a culmination of years of opposition by all legal modes, had first been set for August, but was delayed a month to give us more time and to allow the weather to cool a little. We had anticipated health problems from heat and dehydration. Instead, it was now pouring rain! It continued to rain Saturday, but stopped long enough for us to stage a spirited demonstration before the Department of Energy WIPP offices in Carlsbad, which is 35 miles northwest of the WIPP site. The demo included a simulated truckload of nuclear waste, a magnificent nuclear dragon, and other street theater figures.

At a Saturday night gathering in the community center of Florencia, graciously provided us by the Florencia Land Rights Council, a Chicano organization providing health and other services to the people of the town, we sat in a large circle, discussed and took heart at the widespread representation of communities in New Mexico. People had come from Raton on the Colorado border, from Ruidoso on the southwest side and from Carlsbad, nearby.

Continuing grey skies mercifully withheld their water on Sunday, so that we could leaflet in the town, do a work project of cleaning up a town park and erecting some play equipment, and meet outdoors under parachute tents to discuss and roll play our C.D. strategy. In the evening, we caravaned in cars the 15 miles to the WIPP site to do a balloon release. We pulled into a cleared space which DOE officials had said we could use. A few hundred yards away a huge drilling rig was roaring away as it relentlessly ground out huge holes 2000-feet down into the salt beds, the chosen repository stratum for the nuclear wastes. Large yellow on black signs on the sides of the roads warned, "Rattlesnake Area." Put there for us?

After blowing up the balloons printed with "Save Our Children," and affixing informative cards to them, we formed a huge circle, about 100 strong. The balloons were set loose and soon faded away above us. Just then, a plane flew down and landed on an adjacent road, cars racing after it. Police? DOE officials? No, CBS News. As we stood there, singing or in silence, a little girl with three balloons, walked to and fro in the center of our circle, releasing her balloons one after another. A more poignant and appropriate scene could hardly have been arranged with intention.

Walking towards the WIPP site in New Mexico. *Photo by Ken McCormack*

On Labor Day morning, September 7, the weather held out, overcast and cool. We again assembled at the cleared area to make final plans after seeing the dozen or so sheriff officers behind a simple long saw horse barricade. With 21 C.D.ers, we decided we would go under the barrier, seven at a time. When we reached the barricade, Andrés read a statement in Spanish, and Rosalie read it in English, stating the reasons for our action.

The first C.D. contingent passed easily under the barricade only to find that the guards and officers drew back some 300 yards to a second barrier. When we reached the middle of this buffer zone, an officer on the side began warning us with a bullhorn that if we advanced we would be arrested for trespassing. At the next barricade, the first seven of us sat down and were arrested; Likewise the following contingents. All but I went limp, and were hauled to vehicles. The two chicano men received obviously rougher treatment. Soon we were all speeding off in sheriffs' cars to Carlsbad to spend the night in the Eddy County Jail.

On Tuesday morning, at the arraignment, bail was set at $500 each. A man and wife in the opposition group in Carlsbad put up their property for bond, and we were released on Tuesday afternoon. Craig Simpson, who pled "no contest," was sentenced to two days and $50, but refused to pay the fine, so was sent to jail for a 10-day term.

The action received local and national publicity far beyond what we expected, in part because seven newsmen were arrested with us for following us into the forbidden zone to film the arrests. The local *Carlsbad Current Argus* carried a long story on the first two pages.

This being my first act of civil disobedience, I am most impressed with it as a means of jarring others to think by confronting them with acts contrary to usual or expected behavior. Channels of communication are opened with officials and people who are stimulated to see things in a new light. *Que viva la no-violencia!*

Update

On October 8, the 20 protestors who pled not guilty were found guilty and sentenced to 30 days and a $250. fine. A local businessman posted bail for all of them, and they are out pending appeal.

Dorie Bunting, a long-time activist, is on the WRL National Committee and is active with the Albuquerque WRL Local.

James Peck–Portrait of a CO

The War Resisters League, in conjunction with Gallery 345 (a political art gallery) presented a retrospective in photographs, posters and slides, of nonviolent resistance through the life of one radical activist for over 40 years. Opening night was October 10, just a few days after Jim Peck, the subject of show, was released from jail. He had spent five days at Rikers Island rather than pay a $25 fine stemming from an arrest at a civil disobedience action against the neutron bomb in New York City last summer.

SSD II Is Coming—Just In Time

By David McReynolds

Background: What is SSD II?

SSD II is shorthand for the Second Special Session of the United Nations to deal with disarmament. In 1978 the UN had the first Special Session on Disarmament—and this provided the backdrop for the largest disarmament demonstration in decades, as 25,000 people gathered near the UN on May 27th. Two weeks later, on June 12th, more than 400 persons were arrested in a sitdown at the US Mission in the largest civil disobedience in New York History. (War Resisters League staff served as primary organizers of both actions—though sponsorship was under the auspices of Mobilization for Survival.)

The first Special Session was convened despite the opposition of the Soviet Union and the United States. The pressure for the Special Session came from the developing nations which realized that the funds they need are being thrown into the arms race. The reason the two major powers opposed the Special Session was that they historically prefer bi-lateral discussions and agreements. When the Special Session ended it planned to meet again two years later—in 1981. But this date was pushed back to next year, and so in May of 1982 there will be a second Special Session on Disarmament—SSD II.

Is The SSD II Important?

It has been said the United Nations is a glass house built on the weak foundation of diplomatic wind, an institution with many pretensions and few powers. It is true the United Nations has no more power than its member states give to it, and that they will not permit it to become a government with authority over the member-states. But the UN has done two important things that rarely attract public notice. First, because it is a forum where every nation is represented, it makes it possible for nations who do not even officially recognize each other to maintain informal contact. More than one war has been averted, or brought to an earlier conclusion, because people could talk quietly in the course of attending UN meetings. Second, in areas where governments do cooperate, striking progress has been made. Smallpox is virtually eliminated from the planet because of the UN.

Within the US the United Nations has a "bad press" and in part this is deserved. Yes, the UN has a double standard. It will condemn Israeli aggression but not Libyan aggression, and it will be more critical of South Africa's actions than of some equally disturbing actions by other African states. (So far as I know, Idi Amin's Uganda was still uncensured to the very day the regime was finally overthrown.)

But one reason the UN has a bad press is exactly the reason we should pay some attention to it—*the US does not control it, nor does the Soviet Union.* (The UN vote to continue to seat the Pol Pot delegates for Kampuchea was as stinging a defeat for the Soviet Union as any of the votes against Israel or South Africa have been for our State Department.)

So the SSD II will be important because it gives us a chance to focus world attention on disarmament at a time when our foreign policy is dangerously confrontational. Both in meetings in Japan this August, and in London in mid-September, I took part in discussions to help coordinate world-wide actions in support of SSD II, and in support of a massive international and non-aligned movement to stop the U.S. and the Soviet drives to war. And I can report, from those meetings and from a steady flow of correspondence, that there is intense concern in Japan with the Second Special Session, and growing concern in Western Europe. The people who live in the US or the Soviet Union know how little we have to say about the actual making of policy—but those who live in other countries feel even more helpless and exposed, for they see the drift to nuclear war and they find it hard to make themselves heard in either Moscow or Washington.

What Is Our Relationship to The UN?

Even before giving the outline for actions next May it is worth a paragraph to note that War Resisters International (WRI)—to which we are affiliated—has a special relationship to the United Nations. The UN, when it was founded, made provision not only for nations to be members (and in this sense the member states are somewhat like the members of our Congress—except that members of Congress are elected by a popular vote, while the delegates to the UN are appointed by national governments), but also made special provision for what are called "NGO's"—Non Governmental Organizations. These NGO's are largely a Western phenomena and hard for the Communist governments to understand, since an NGO such as War Resisters League not only was not "approved" by the American government, but is often openly hostile to it. Or trade unions—another example of powerful NGO's—may go on strike against the government, as the Air Traffic Controllers recently did in this country. WRI has official status at the United Nations, and is entitled to an observer at both Geneva and New York. WRI is also able to ask the UN Secretariat to distribute relevent material to the member states.

When we approach our work on SSD II we should understand we are doing our "official job" of helping make the United Nations work. The people at the UN are not worried about the demonstrations planned—they hope the demonstrations will be massive and world wide, for they know, and have said, that the only real hope for disarmament is public opinion, aroused, mobilized, and focused.

The Calendar—Seven Months Until June

October 24 marked the start of the UN's official disarmament week and since that date is past, we will not do more than note the "countdown to June" began on that date.

Buddhist Peace Walk: On October 24 a group of Buddhist nuns and priests left Los Angeles to begin a walk for peace which will take them across this country, arriving in New York as the Special Session begins in the middle of June. (This Walk has been endorsed by WRL—write us for the schedule and route of the walkers.)

International Peace Petition: These were to have been presented to Reagan and Breshnew on October 24 but the date has been delayed to allow time to gather more names. Thousands of names have been turned in to us already—if you need copies of the petition please let us know.

March First—Bikini Day: This is the date set in Japan for memorializing all victims of radioactive fall out, in memory of the Japanese fisherman killed by U.S. testing at Bikini. It will be a day used in Japan, among other things, to help raise funds needed to send *one thousand Japanese* to New York

---

David McReynolds is a member of WRL staff and also serves as a WRI observer to the UN in New York and is a Vice President of the New York NGO Bureau on Disarmament.

for the Special Session. The Japanese have also decided to raise a substantial sum to make sure that Pacific Island representatives can attend the Special Session.)

Starting even before March first, but certainly not later than, we need to follow the suggestions made at the peace conference in Tokyo this past August—pressure our national leaders to attend in person, and pressure them to name peace leaders as full members of the national delegations. In 1978 not only did Carter *not* attend, but he deliberately slated a special meeting of the NATO ministers to begin in Washington D.C. at the same time as the Special Session. This was a remarkable show of contempt for the Special Session and shows that our problems did not begin with Reagan! This time we want the President to attend. And we want him to appoint experts to the U.S. team. Who is more expert at negotiations than Norma Becker, our own Chairperson, whose skills at diplomacy have helped keep coalitions together? And who has a greater stake in peace than the elderly, the Blacks, the Puerto Ricans, the disadvantaged of America? Let Reagan keep the millionaires at home and send instead a delegation who can negotiate for the American people and for those sectors of America which most desperately need the funds disarmament would release.

Seven Days In June

The Special Session will begin on a Monday in June. The dates will be June 9 to July 7. We will have a full calendar later, but quickly list the main events here. Mobilization for Survival will serve to coordinate most of the events.

—International Demonstrations will occur just before the Special Session opens, so that people in all countries can demonstrate support for disarmament.

—On the eve of the Special Session, International Confederation for Disarmament and Peace, with the A. J. Muste Memorial Institute, will sponsor an all day conference for the public to focus attention on the agenda of the Special Session. (This conference will continue for three days the following week on a smaller scale, as a closed consultation of peace activists from the international non-aligned movement).

—On the eve of the Special Session the Mobilization for Survival will have a mass public rally in New York City to welcome the peoples of the world who will be gathering.

—On Saturday, just before the Special Session begins, there will be a demonstration that will dwarf the event of 1978. This must be a massive rally, an outpouring of protest against nuclear weapons, conventional weapons, and militarism. We will give out the date the moment the working committee has set it up. WRL staff has been closely involved from the beginning of this project and will need every bit of support to make this *the* major rally of 1982.

—Civil Disobedience: The question is probably less whether, but when and where. One suggestion, from Homer Jack—who is generally considered on the conservative side—has been for 25,000 people to be arrested sitting at the Missions of the five nuclear powers. That is ambitious—yet our survival depends on such urgent dreams. In a world where the desperate young employ the terrorism of bombs and guns, which can be used by only a few, in favor of the massive and peaceful actions of nonviolence, which can embrace the support of many.

—Coffee Shop: While WRL staff has focused on demonstrations, we are supportive of the creative concept of a SSD II Coffee lounge in the Church Peace Center, which will be run by the Fellowship of Reconciliation. This is the same project they ran in 1978 and it met a real need.

This is a quick round up. A full and detailed calendar is being made up now. From now right through May the focus of the peace movement needs to be on SSD II. And when that session is ended, as it will end in July, pacifists everywhere in the world can regroup and reconsider where to move next. (The War Resisters International Triennial, which will probably be held in Rome just a month after the UN closes its sessions will be a good place to consider future strategies.)

What Do We Say Politically?

WRL members will want to keep pressing the issue of unilateral actions—War Resisters International is circulating a special statement calling for unilateral nuclear disarmament (copies available by writing us) and this will be released to the press just before the SSD II opens. However it is not enough to call for unilateral disarmament, anymore than it is enough to urge a Freeze on the testing and production of new weapons systems.

In my view we need to demand action by the UN on three key points. First, the United Nations should declare nuclear war, and the testing, production, manufacture and possession of nuclear weapons, to be a crime. Second, we need to demand that in place of limited and partial agreements on arms control, there be concrete steps taken toward Complete and General Disarmament. Third, we must demand that there be a time-table for Complete and General Disarmament—that it cease being a utopian dream and become a matter of deadlines, of dates, of schedules. The question must cease to be "should the nations disarm" and become instead "How closely are the major powers sticking to the agreed schedule for disarmament."

Martha Tranquilli 1910-1981

On September 3 Martha Tranquilli died of lung cancer. She was a long time activist in the peace movement, but will be remembered most for two famous instances of war tax resistance. The first was winning a Federal Communications Commission decision against her local telephone company. Ma Bell shut off her phone for almost 700 days due to nonpayment of the telephone tax before being ordered in 1969 by the FCC to turn it back on. This case set a precedent which is still in effect today.

Martha, who was supervising nurse at Mound Bayou Community Hospital, Mississippi, refused to pay 61% of her taxes in opposition to the Vietnam War. On her 1040 form she claimed 6 peace organizations (including WRL) as dependents. In 1973 she was tried and convicted. Tranquilli spent 8 months (from July 1974 until March 1975) at Terminal Island federal prison in California. This unusual case and her being a grandmother generated nationwide publicity.

After release from prison, she continued to resist taxes, and the IRS continued to try to find property to seize for her unpaid taxes, even as she was dying from cancer.

1982 Peace Calendar Available

Dancing in the Streets...this is the theme of the 1982 Peace Calendar and Appointment Book now available from the War Resisters League. Included in the calendar are the words of 56 songs by Lennon, Parton, Marley, the Temptations, Presley, Seeger, and dozens of other singers who have made a difference in our lives.

Dancing in the Streets is a desk calendar (5½ x 8½) with a page for every week and, on facing pages, a song for every emotion. The date pages can be removed, leaving a bound volume for your permanent library.

This handsome and informative calendar is ideal as an inexpensive gift. Order today!

$5.00 each, four for $18.

Guide To War Tax Resistance

To satisfy the rapidly growing interest in war tax resistance, WRL is publishing a comprehensive book on the subject. Chapters will include why resist war taxes, the budget, how to resist, consequences of resistance, resisting collection, the history of war tax resistance, personal histories of resisters, and more.

The book is to be published in January and is expected to cost about $6. It will run 128 pages in an 8-1/2" x 11" format.

European Peace March

By Susan Davidoff

The European Peace March, in Copenhagen. *Photo by Susan Davidoff*

For five weeks this summer I marched through Europe with 800-1500 other people demanding a Nuclear Weapon Free Europe. Beginning in Copenhagen in the middle of June, I walked through southern Denmark, West Germany, the southwest Netherlands and into Belgium.

The walk was organized beginning last January when some women from the Women for Peace group in Oslo, Norway began to talk about the idea of taking some kind of concrete and visible action to protest the increased nuclear build-up in Europe. Their initial goal was an Atomic Weapon Free Nordic Zone (which includes Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Finland). They wrote to women in other peace groups in these countries and the response was enthusiastic. With that encouragement the Norwegian women went ahead with their organizing. The European Nuclear Disarmament group (END) supported the march, after some argument, when the Scandanavian women agreed to add a demand for a Nuclear Free Europe from Poland to Portugal. The march focused on nuclear weapons only—especially the United States Cruise and Pershing missiles and only to a lesser extent on the Soviet Union's SS 20's.

The first week of the walk, in the southern part of Denmark, was one of the most spirited parts. In Denmark, our values and the values of the society were very close—when we marched for peace we marched to maintain a nuclear free country, not to change it. We did not feel in conflict with the ideas of the people who saw us. As we walked through towns, people, especially older men and women watched us through their windows or from their porches, waving and smiling as we walked by. Members of village peace groups stood on bridges over the road, clapping as we passed by.

People on the walk played guitars, flutes and violins and we all sang. There were children with us who we pulled in wagons or pushed in carriages, a few older people, a couple in wheelchairs and a blind man. Most of the walkers were from the Scandanavian countries. The march was led by four Japanese monks who have walked all over the world carrying a banner which said, in Japanese, "No More Hiroshimas." Over the course of the walk, about 20 Americans participated.

Each morning we would gather in the town, put our knapsacks in a truck, and begin walking. Sometimes there would be great spirit as we walked, depending on the weather, our energy level, and our blisters. When people played their violins, accordions, or just began singing, we sometimes forgot that we were walking. Our rest stops were in fields, parking lots or just by the side of the road—we would all sit down, take off our shoes and see what casualties our feet had suffered in the last few hours. We walked 20-25 miles a day—leaving at eight in the morning and finishing sometimes between six and eight in the evening.

In Denmark we slept in school gymnasiums—sometimes a few hundred of us in one room. In Germany, the organizers had asked townspeople to put us up for the night. After a day of walking, staying in a private home was luxurious and whenever we had the choice of a home or a gymnasium we always chose the home.

The dinners, showers, and occasional beds were welcomed, but the most wonderful part of these evenings was the opportunity to meet the German and Dutch people. The first hour was always uncomfortable, especially if there was a great language barrier—we would all be excessively polite and smile nervously—but this usually faded over dinner as we began to get to know each other. Some were very active in radical work, some had become involved in peace activities through their church, others just wanted to offer their homes to foreigners. One family—a baker's family—came to see us after hearing from the papers that we were all Communists—they wanted to see for themselves and ended up taking seven of us home with them.

Walking through Germany was an intense, educational, and at times, frightening experience. After Denmark, it felt much more like the United States. The movement there is stronger, better organized and more militant than ours—but the right is also stronger. Because our walk was an international event with the support of many people in the Scandanavian governments and because we were well covered by the press we had few problems or encounters with the police or other opposition. But we heard terrifying stories from the German radical pacifists. The police are brutal at demonstrations—I saw pictures which made the confrontations look like war. The police use water cannons, clubs and tear gas, frequently. To combat "terrorism" on the left, the police can search homes whenever they want to. One man we stayed with was often stopped on the road because he resembled one of the "terrorists."

Germany is covered with nuclear power plants and United States weapons and military bases. We have over 300,000 soldiers there. In a small village near Munster we talked to women who had formed a women's anti-militarist group because they lived near an army base and were afraid to be outside at night because the soldiers hassle and occasionally rape them. As the Women's Pentagon Action does, they are attempting to draw connections between the violence of the military and the violence in their everyday lives.

Every day we saw bombers flying over our heads, zooming across the sky prac-

Continued on page 7

Susan Davidoff is active with WRL and the Women's Pentagon Action.

WRL NATIONAL CONFERENCE

By Linnea Capps

In spite of a few problems with food and dry, dusty surroundings, most participants considered the 1981 WRL National Conference a success. The setting was northern California, near Occidental, August 27-30. Nearly 300 people attended.

The theme of the conference was "Building Community and a Strategy for Action in the 80's." Many interested people from the surrounding region attended, including some who were preparing to participate in the blockade of the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant.

The conference began on Thursday evening with a large opening session which included introductions and the sharing of projects going on in different parts of the country. There was also a lively sing-along led by Faith Petric.

Friday morning began with a plenary dealing with strategy and was followed by strategy workshops on such topics as disarmament and conversion organizing, draft and counter-recruitment, war tax resistance and working against sexist violence. The afternoon schedule was given to workshops on issues, designed to present basic information on certain topics, for those not already familiar with the subject. These included international disarmament movements, feminism and nonviolence, the nuclear arms race, peace conversion, introduction to anarchism, an overview of third world struggles, and others.

On Friday evening there was a presentation by Ricky Sherover-Marcuse on "Unlearning Racism" which served as an introduction to the smaller workshops she led on Saturday and Sunday. She discussed how racist attitudes are learned, how racism hurts its "non-victims," and how she helps people unlearn racism.

The theme of the Saturday workshops was "Community—Creating New Models and Problem Solving." There were a large number of workshops to choose from dealing with building intentional communities, nonviolent politics and nonviolent lifestyles, working collectively, supporting draft resisters, finding time for everything, nonviolent conflict resolution, preventing burnout, challenging sexism and a number of others.

The traditional anarchist-Socialist softball game on Saturday afternoon ended in a tie. That evening there was a children's play, more music and a party with dancing, dinking and poker playing.

Sunday morning was devoted to skills workshops including, meeting facilitation, public speaking, fundraising, working with the media and organizing civil disobedience.

In the general evaluation session which ended the conference, people generally expressed the opinion that there was an especially good variety of workshops and that most of them were well presented. Many people expressed appreciation for the work done by the conference committee (the WRL/West office), and some were disappointed that it will be two years before the next national conference is held.

After the conference, the National Committee met with staff and discussed WRL program, finances, staff changes and other business. Several proposals were adopted by the NC. These included more participation by regional staff members in the organizers training program and a fundraising training project to be coordinated by Dorie Wilsnack. The disarmament program of WRL was discussed at great length and some sense of priorities emerged. Areas of emphasis will include economic analysis of military spending, development of an "eleven year plan" (a proposal for disarmament in a specific time period), nuclear freeze as an idea (not the campaign), and incorporation of peace conversion into disarmament work. Plans for activities around the UN Special Session on Disarmament were also discussed.

The next National Conference is planned for 1983 on the East coast. The next NC meeting will be in March, 1982 in New York City.

The WRL National Committee.
Photo by Grace Hedemann

Linnea Capps is on the WRL Executive Committee.

European Peace March

Continued from page 6

ticing/preparing for war. At nights our windows would rattle. I have grown up with a real, but abstract fear of war, but this was the first time I began to understand it in a very concrete, terrifyng way. Many Americans have never experienced it and none have seen war in their country. It seemed to me that the European knowledge of war made it easier, less radical to talk about peace.

Americans need to understand that we have invaded and are occupying Germany and other European countries. Reagan and Haig say that we are protecting the European's freedom. The Germans I met say it only means the freedom to die first. They are horrified and furious that their land is openly called a theatre for a "limited" nuclear war. Throughout the walk and now that I am back in this country I feel strengthened by their absolute determination to get out of NATO and to stop the deployment of our missiles on their land.

When we walked into the Netherlands the Dutch greeted us as if we were literally marching in to liberate their country. They lined the streets clapping and handing us flowers and fruit as we walked by. As we came into towns most of the homes had the Dutch flag flying, and all the church bells rang! Most of us felt an immediate absence of tension and fear which had been with us during our 17 days in Germany.

The organization of the march itself was a great source of tension. It was controlled by a self-appointed council of ten people who made all decisions. The marchers had been divided into four categories—designated by little stickers—the red foots were the organizers, the green foots were the "core" group of 40 Scandanavian women who were walking the entire distance from Copenhagan to Paris, the black foots were those also walking the entire distance, but who were not members of the "core" and the no-footers who were only able to walk for a while, whether a day or a few weeks. The organizers considered the purpose of the march for the "core" group to go to Paris. The core received free meals, guaranteed accomodations, special buses, etc. This resulted in a lack of community and feeling of anger between the different ranks. When this hierarchy was questioned one woman in the core responded that they had to get to Paris and we did not have the time to create a democracy.

In spite of the problems, the walk arrived in Paris on August 6, 20,000 strong, for a two-day commemoration of the thirty-sixth anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The march had been a powerful event and gave many people from different countries an opportunity to meet, talk, and walk for peace, together.

Diablo Canyon

Continued from page 1

help by participants in the action contributed to smooth running of this mostly self-sufficient "home" for over 3,000 people.

Five days after the alert, representatives of over 200 affinity groups and 14 blockade work teams met to assess readiness. Within two hours, consensus was reached to begin the blockade the next day. Singing and chanting rebounded throughout the camp.

Because the alliance was trying to physically block workers from readying the soon-to-be licensed reactors, blockaders were encouraged to decide where, when, and how to blockade in one of five different areas. In the dark of the night, 220 blockaders set out through unfamiliar territory, buzzed by PG&E helicopter with sirens, to already designated camp areas ½-mile from the reactor. As one blockader said, "After that seven-hour trek, it was amazing to walk up the hill from the camp and look down on the plant, the ocean, and the splendid beauty of the area. It reaffirmed for me why I choose to blockade." These "overlanders" were to then decide when to move down the hill and blockade as close to the plant as possible.

Meanwhile, the first day of the action, September 15th, saw over 500 people arrested for blockading the front entrance to the plant. Besides the blockaders, support people, and monitors, there were hundreds of local and state police and press people. After the arrests of the first day, police apparently decided there would be little left to do and withdrew some officers.

The second day, a woman chained herself to the fence. A bus carrying construction workers barreled up to the gate and stopped just short of missing her. Sixteen women lined up with her. A PG&E employee then cut the chain and pushed the gate open and the women out of the way. It looked like the blockade had been broken, as PG&E workers cheered. But, an Abalone "monitor"' who was there to help keep the peace and was not planning to blockade herself, sat in front of the first bus as it began to roll past. The driver inched partially over, stopping just in time. After 20 minutes, the bus left, resulting in a five hour delay in work that day.

For the next two weeks, hundreds of people blockaded by land and sea, with determination and a non-violent spirit and tone. Relations with the PG&E workers and police varied from day to day. There were numerous dialogues with PG&E workers and some called the Diablo Blockade Project office to express their support. Glenn Craig, California Highway Patrol Commissioner sent by Governor Jerry Brown to coordinate state law enforcement at the blockade stated, "The Abalone Alliance has maintained a non-violent posture. They certainly deserve credit for that."

While the blockaders remained non-violent, officers making arrests, at times, used painful arm and head locks. The "overlanders" and sea blockaders were treated quite harshly, because of their isolation from observers and their close proximity to the reactors. Even the media was not immune from being roughed up. Two reporters from Cable Network News were hurt and their cameras damaged. Observers of the media coverage reported that press reports on the action became more sympathetic from then on.

At the end of the first week of the blockade, a spontaneous march to the gates of Diablo took place that attracted 5,000 people. Even though it was unconnected to the blockade and many were unwilling to join the action and risk arrest, a number of marchers commented that the blockade helped set the tone that made the march possible. The next week, close to 7,000 returned to march again. While PG&E attempted to brand the marchers as "outsiders," a Los Angeles television station conducted a poll showing that 55% of the county residents oppose Diablo.

Participants in the blockade felt very good about the results. While the alliance was unable to tactically stop the plant at this time, the public attention focused on the plant had reverberations beyond San Luis Obispo. On September 21st, while 330 were being arrested, the NRC in Washington D.C., voted to license Unit 1 of the reactor, with three of the five commissioners expressing concerns about the safety of the plant. The following day, the Mothers for Peace as legal intervenors and Governor Brown, filed a lawsuit against the NRC decision.

On Monday September 28th, the final blockading took place. At the local PG&E office, 17 women from the "Mother Bear Brigade" attempted a citizen's arrest of PG&E officials. Almost 250 were arrested on that day, bringing the total to 1901. "Phase 1" of the action was over, and blockaders and support people vowed to return to their local communitites, strategize, educate, and organize for the upcoming months.

Ironically, hours after the blockade ended, PG&E announced that the wrong blueprints were used on piping supports and some "minor modifications" would have to be done. How minor remains to be seen. The utility admitted that the "contraversy" about the plant over the last few weeks caused the blueprint error to be publicized widely.

Regardless of time before the plant operates, the nonviolent struggle to stop Diablo will continue.

Steve Leeds works with WRL/West and did nonviolence training and media work for the Diablo Blockade.

Thank You!

The following volunteers came in on a regular basis or spent a large segment of time helping the WRL national office operate more smoothly in September and October:

Ashley King
Virginia Eggleston
Kevin Duggan
Tom Grabell
Dawn Handibode

WRL NEWS

Published by the War Resisters League, 339 Lafayette Street, New York, NY 10012, 212-228-0450.

WRL is the U.S. branch of the War Resisters' International, a pacifist organization with affiliates in 18 countries.

Staff: Karl Bissinger
Ralph DiGia
Ed Hedemann
Grace Hedemann
Greta Lindstrom
David McReynolds
Susan Pines
Igal Roodenko

WRL News (from 1967 on) is available on microfilm from University Microfilms International, 300 N. Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106.

WRL Statement of Purpose

The War Resisters League affirms that war is a crime against humanity. We therefore are determined not to support any kind of war, international or civil, and to strive nonviolently for the removal of all the causes of war.

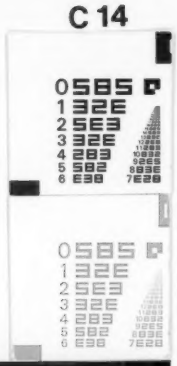
I support this statement and wish to enroll as a member of the War Resisters League.

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

City_____State_____Zip _____

send to
War Resisters League
339 Lafayette St.
New York, NY 10012

C 14